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REFERENCE: S/AC.49/2020/OC.39

21 February 2020

Dear Mr. Castellanos,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 20 February 2020, requesting the Committee for an exemption pursuant to paragraph 25 of resolution 2397 (2017), in accordance with Implementation Assistance Notice No. 7, to engage in humanitarian activities in the DPRK, in particular to allow for the procurement and shipment of materials related to emergency health interventions to prevent and mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 outbreak in the DPRK and to enable effective prevention and response to COVID-19.

I have the further honour to inform you that, following due consideration, the Committee has decided to approve the requested exemption in the abovementioned letter, in accordance with paragraph 25 of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017), to transfer the items and services outlined in the letter within the next six months, which is enclosed in this letter as an attachment. The items are requested to be shipped once together or in a consolidated manner, with a view to increasing efficiency of shipping and custom clearance.

The Committee reiterates that the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council through its resolutions with respect to the DPRK are not intended to bear a negative impact on the people of the DPRK, and the note verbale it issued to all Member States, as well as its press release SC/13113 of 8 December 2017, offer clarifications as regards humanitarian aid to the DPRK. The note verbale further recalls that each Member State must fully implement relevant Security Council measures, while keeping in mind the need to clarify to public and private sector entities in their jurisdiction that, while properly implementing United Nations sanctions, humanitarian activities should not be unduly restricted.

The Committee further supports and approves IFRC engaging in necessary business and financial transactions only for the purchase of goods and services exempted by the Committee and found in the attachment without prejudice to the relevant commercial decisions.

Mr. Xavier Castellanos
Regional Director for Asia Pacific,
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

At the same time, the Committee requests relevant organizations delivering humanitarian assistance to the DPRK to adhere to the exemption time limit approved by the Committee and fully respect and abide by relevant national laws, regulations, and licensing requirements governing financial and commercial transactions, and shipping and custom clearance conducted in the jurisdictions of affected Member States.

I wish to inform you that this letter and its annex will be published on the 1718 Committee website for the public, including relevant national authorities involved in reviewing the exempted transfers to the DPRK, for a period of six months.

The Committee would like to thank IFRC for its diligence.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Heusgen
Chair

Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

Attachment:

- List of Items and Services for Transfer to the DPRK

